United Nations A/C.2/69/SR.4

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
29 October 2014

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 4th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 8 October 2014, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Cardi ..... (Italy)

Contents

General debate (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be sent as soon as possible, under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/).

14-62240 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Henry Suárez Moreno** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that at the heart of the debate was an economic model of production, accumulation of wealth and consumption that had had adverse effects on people and the environment. The increase in socioeconomic inequality and the destruction of nature were merely symptoms of that model. The only businesses that flourished were those that depended on financial speculation and the imbalances caused by the international economic system. The prevailing economic model concentrated resources in the hands of the few instead of using them to produce goods and services and thereby create employment and hasten the eradication of poverty and hunger. That economic system also led to desertification, loss of biodiversity and climate change.

2. Ahead of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, a social pre-conference on climate change to be held in Caracas would provide a forum for Governments and social organizations to forge an alliance against climate change. Sustainable development remained a priority for the international community. New development proposals should be geared towards avoiding a repetition of recent economic, energy, food and environmental crises. All States needed to redefine development models to enhance the systematic flow of resources within the framework of official development assistance (ODA). The distortions resulting from the capitalist model required the establishment of novel mechanisms to tackle external debt and denounce the so-called "vulture funds" that threatened the debt restructuring process of developing countries. He expressed his delegation's continued support for the Group of 77 and China initiative regarding negotiations on a legal regulatory framework for debt restructuring.

3. The establishment of a new international economic system could contribute to development on a basis of peace, justice and solidarity. The decision-making mechanisms of the international financial architecture should be democratized to ensure greater participation by developing countries. States should reach agreements on the strengthening of strategies to eliminate poverty and social exclusion, including their means of implementation.

4. **Mr. Estreme** (Argentina) said that the complexity of the current international situation required a firm commitment to social inclusiveness and the eradication of poverty as key components of the post-2015 development agenda. External debt continued to be a pending issue. The unscrupulous speculation of vulture funds undermined the economic and political agenda not only of developing countries but also of developed ones. With General Assembly resolution 68/304 entitled "Towards the establishment of a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes", the United Nations had decided to engage in a transparent intergovernmental process with a view to preventing the predatory activities of speculative funds from conspiring against inclusive growth and the sustainable development of peoples. The immediate challenge was to define the technical aspects of the negotiations over that framework within the General Assembly — the only international body where all countries were represented on an equal footing — so that substantive issues could be addressed in 2015.

5. His Government had implemented political, economic, social and cultural changes to achieve high living standards, within the context of a development model that reflected the political, historical and cultural specificities of Argentina. The post-2015 development agenda would be successful only if it gave each State the ability to incorporate that agenda into its own strategy.

6. Every person had an inalienable right to migrate. The reasons for migration stemmed from the forces of globalization and the structural and political conditions in the countries of origin and destination. The General Assembly was the best forum for engaging in a global debate on human mobility with a view to the adoption of a convention on international migration. States should view migrants as persons with rights and not criminalize irregular migration. In that connection, a multilateral debate on the underlying causes of migration would be extremely valuable. His Government would support initiatives that advanced sustainable development with full respect for human rights.

7. The consequences of climate change impacted developing countries even though they had contributed the least to global warming. Argentina was committed to the adoption of binding international instruments and reaffirmed that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was the most natural

point of departure. Negotiations should be transparent, inclusive and consensus-based. A new global agreement on climate change would have to be consistent with the principles, provisions and structure of the Convention. His delegation supported the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and hoped that the forthcoming Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Lima would result in a first draft of the new agreement.

8. An open, non-discriminatory and rules-based multilateral trading system would promote agricultural development and food security. Only compliance with the agricultural mandate of Doha, namely, reduced subsidies, improved market access, an end to export subsidies by developed countries, and special and differential treatment for developing countries would resolve the main trade-related food security issues. In that context, South-South cooperation was a natural complement to North-South cooperation. His delegation supported not only South-South cooperation but also triangular and decentralized cooperation as a means of responding to development challenges and building new capacity.

9. **Mr. Bhattarai** (Nepal) said that the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly was the platform for a final push to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and define sustainable development goals in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, which was especially important for landlocked developing countries and developing countries in view of the forthcoming second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and third International Conference on Financing for Development. The least developed countries were the furthest from achieving the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals. The overarching aim of graduating half of the least developed countries by 2020 and eradicating extreme poverty by 2030 should be reflected in the post-2015 development agenda alongside the unfinished business of the MDGs.

10. Nepal had a goal of graduating from least-developed-country status by 2022 and would soon host an Asia-Pacific least developed country ministerial conference. The post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals and their means of implementation, should be based on the principles of universal human rights, equity and sustainability, and centred on poverty eradication, taking into account the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries , mountain countries and countries emerging from conflict.

11. Climate change undermined poverty eradication efforts in least developed countries such as Nepal. Melting of Himalayan glaciers had adversely affected the hydrological stability of the river system and caused extreme weather events, leading to flash floods, landslides, a loss of biodiversity, lower agricultural productivity and depleted fresh water resources, thereby endangering the livelihoods of millions of people. A legally binding agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was needed to address the vulnerabilities of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, mountain countries and countries emerging from conflict.

12. Disaster risk reduction in disaster-prone countries required the sharing of knowledge and technology with the international community. He underscored the need for investment in disaster risk reduction and building resilience in developing countries. The third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in 2015 should address those needs.

13. His Government looked forward to the implementation of the Doha Development Round, especially with regard to duty-free and quota-free market access, rules of origin, non-tariff barriers, and aid for trade. A legally binding instrument should be implemented without delay.

14. Official development assistance, the main source of external financing for many least developed countries, was essential for growth and development, and Nepal's development partners had kept their promises. His delegation supported the principle of "Delivering as one" with its comprehensive monitoring and reporting framework. The United Nations should improve coordination with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization to promote fair global economic governance in which developing countries had a say in decision-making processes.

15. The Committee should stay abreast of advances in the economic and financial realms to improve the quality of life of the millions still afflicted by hunger, disease, illiteracy, unemployment and a lack of opportunities to acquire common human values. It had

to be the bridge between places where resources were abundant and places where they were lacking so that wealth, knowledge and technology could best be used to spark innovation and hope in the lives of millions. It should also be a moral force promoting the well-being of humanity as a whole.

16. **Mr. Wang** Min (China) said that to promote development, address the challenges posed by climate change, and further the common interests of humanity, States must better coordinate their international development initiatives. The United Nations must continue to play a central role in that regard, and the General Assembly should continue to mobilize international political will to achieve all Millennium Development Goals. The international community must make additional resources available to fund development projects and accelerate its implementation of existing development initiatives, particularly in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Developing countries must also redouble their efforts to facilitate development.

17. The General Assembly must seek to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda was fair, inclusive and sustainable; the agenda should build on the Millennium Development Goals, uphold the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and acknowledge that there were many diverse approaches to development. It should give priority consideration to eliminating poverty, advancing social progress, improving livelihoods, promoting inclusive economic growth and strengthening environmental safeguards. It must also provide for the creation of effective implementation mechanisms. The General Assembly should also seek to improve global economic governance and foster an enabling international economic environment in which the World Trade Organization played a key oversight role. The views of emerging markets and developing countries must carry greater weight in international forums, and efforts must be made to reduce developing countries' debt burdens, including through debt cancellation, debt reduction and increased market access for their products.

18. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change must remain the basis for efforts to reach a new climate change agreement in 2015 in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Furthermore, the General Assembly should redouble its efforts to reach global consensus on ways to address climate change, decrease price volatility for commodities and key agricultural products and achieve global energy security.

19. Although its economy was growing at over 7.5 per cent a year, China was committed to enhancing its energy efficiency and had reduced its energy consumption per unit GDP by 3.7 per cent. China's expanding economy was helping to drive economic growth across the developing world. A strong supporter of South-South cooperation, China provided development assistance to many developing countries and would continue its efforts to promote global prosperity.

20. **Mr. Olguín Cigarroa** (Chile) said that important negotiation processes had begun or would soon begin. Flexibility and political will would be needed to build consensuses in the area of sustainable development in order to eradicate poverty and create more inclusive democratic societies. The report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals had identified issues that would be conducive to the achievement of those political aims, in particular its proposed goals on poverty eradication, women's empowerment, inclusive economic growth, the environment and climate change.

21. Climate change was a challenge for all countries but developed countries had to take the initiative on the basis of agreed principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative to convene the recent Climate Summit 2014. The success of the forthcoming Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was the prerequisite for the adoption of a binding and universal legal instrument under that Convention. His Government supported the proposal by Ecuador to host the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016.

22. As the current holder of the Presidency of the Leading Group of Innovative Financing for Development, Chile was hoping to cooperate with Governments, civil society, the private sector and academia in the run-up to the 2015 International Conference on Financing for Development. The Conference would address pending issues identified in the Monterrey Consensus, especially those related to the systemic and institutional aspects of the international financial system, including the issue of

sovereign debt, which affected both debtors and creditors alike and impacted the levels of development that countries could achieve. The recent adoption of a resolution on sovereign debt restructuring was a step in the right direction. His delegation hoped that those countries which had not supported the draft resolution would come to appreciate its importance.

23. His Government had organized a regional preparatory consultation on financing for development with the technical support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. It encouraged other regions to carry out a similar initiative. Chile had also increased its participation in South-South and triangular cooperation and displayed its solidarity, within the framework of the World Trade Organization, by opening its economy to imports from least developed countries, which had duty-free and quota-free access to the Chilean market.

24. **Mr. Bodini** (San Marino) said that no country, central bank or financial or economic institution could, by itself, find long-term solutions to the world's social and economic challenges. Established economic and social theories were unable to explain current realities and the information technology revolution, while providing for real-time dissemination of news and information, had highlighted the world's inability to address many of the challenges it faced. A collaborative approach was needed and, in that connection, the United Nations must continue to facilitate discussions on long-term strategies to address issues of global importance. San Marino commended the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which had decisively articulated Member States' desire to work together to address key issues affecting countries and regions. Efforts must now be made to prioritize actions to achieve the aspirations of Member States and their populations. Countries must make every effort to uphold the promises they made to their citizens: indeed, the failure of certain Governments to deliver on their commitments had exacerbated discontent among populations and fuelled violent unrest. The world needed a long-term plan for economic and social justice that would promote prosperity and lay the foundations for a more predicable future.

25. **Mr. Masood Khan** (Pakistan) said that the current session of the Second Committee would be the most important in many years because it would craft the post-2015 development agenda. There was no need to reinvent the wheel; rather, the Committee's work should draw on accumulated experiences and collective wisdom. The Millennium Development Goals had changed the development discourse and agenda by reducing poverty and spurring socioeconomic development. Child and maternal mortality had fallen; access to clean water, education and health had improved; and gender parity and women's empowerment had been enhanced, but much remained to be done. One obstacle to achieving all the Millennium Development Goals was the inadequacy of resources. The United Nations and other bodies needed to ensure that sufficient resources were available to fulfil intergovernmental mandates. That would require not only official development assistance but also broad partnerships, peace and stability, democratic governance, the rule of law, access to justice, human rights, gender parity and above all institution-building.

26. In the Secretary-General's forthcoming synthesis report, the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing would have to be harmonized with the outcome of the 2015 International Conference on Financing for Development in order to unlock resources within the framework of partnerships between the United Nations, the private sector, civil society and multilateral financial institutions. The Monterrey Consensus had outlined the policy actions required to achieve internationally agreed development goals and the progress made thus far needed to be assessed.

27. There was compelling scientific evidence that rising emissions might push the increase in the global mean temperature higher than 2oC and that human activity was the main cause of observed global warming. Action within the framework of the new global climate agreement to be negotiated in 2015 should not undermine growth and development in developing countries. The post-2015 development agenda should complement the development objectives of developing countries; promote self-reliance and the use of indigenous resources; stimulate regional trade; encourage the use modern services to overcome constraints on growth and job creation and efforts towards making cleaner energy accessible to all; ensure good governance and environmental sustainability without compromising growth; leverage the private sector and banks; and build in a review system.

28. The main weaknesses of the global economy were sovereign debt, a fragile banking sector, weak demand and high unemployment. The establishment of a multilateral framework for sovereign debt restructuring would ensure debt sustainability. Investment of resources would build productive capacity and resilience in developing countries.

29. **Mr. Sinhaseni** (Thailand) said that his country had constructively contributed to the negotiations of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals and firmly believed that the proposed goals must constitute the foundation for negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. In 2014, Thailand had hosted the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. Such meetings added the region's voice to ongoing global deliberations. Thailand was deeply concerned at persistent and growing inequality. Poverty, hunger, unemployment and inequitable access to education and health care exacerbated social unrest and extremism. To achieve inclusive, sustained and equitable growth and make a real difference in people's lives, the new agenda must adopt a rights-based approach with a strong emphasis on universality, equality, equity, accessibility, and the rule of law.

30. Thailand's 2012-2016 National Economic and Social Development Plan, had been inspired by the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy, which had been formulated by the King of Thailand. That philosophy emphasized moderation, resilience and reasonableness, and made sustainability possible in all aspects of people's lives. Developing countries, particularly least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries emerging from conflicts, must be provided with the resources and tools they needed to achieve their sustainable development goals. Thailand strongly supported the ongoing negotiations on a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally-sound technologies, and efforts to create regional and global partnerships for development, including public-private partnership. Thailand stood ready to share its experiences and provide assistance in areas such as agriculture, food security, education and health. Committed to promoting food security for present and future generations, Thailand attached great importance to World Soil Day on 5 December and noted that 2015 would be the International Year of Soils. Thailand was also helping countries to strengthen their health care systems through its Capacity-Building Programme on Universal Health Coverage, which promoted international technical cooperation.

31. The world must adopt a new, legally binding and responsive agreement at the twenty-first session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. Disaster risk reduction should also be an important element of the new development agenda. Thailand had learned that resilient communities ensured better preparedness and responses to disasters. In December, it would hold a commemorative event to mark the 10th anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami, at which it would highlight the importance of early warning systems in mitigating the effects of natural disasters and other severe events.

32. Trade was a key driver of inclusive and sustainable development that should be strongly emphasized in the new development agenda. A universal, fair, rules-based, open, inclusive and equitable multilateral trading system was needed. Expressing concern at the decline in trade growth, he called for urgent steps to reduce or eliminate trade-distorting subsidies and restrictions on trade, facilitate access to trade finance and boost investment. The external debt burdens of developing countries should be addressed within the framework of enhanced international cooperation and a strengthened global partnership for development. Efforts must also be made to promote the full and equitable participation of developing countries in the global financial system.

33. **Mr. Gonchig** (Mongolia) said that the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, while commendable, could have better reflected the particular concerns of landlocked developing countries. The report would constitute the basis for integrating the goals into the post-2015 development agenda and should not be renegotiated.

34. Like many developing countries, Mongolia was adversely affected by climate change. It welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to mobilize global political will to address that phenomenon. Mongolia was keen to promote sustainable development and transition to a low-carbon economy. To that end, the country's Green

Development Policy encouraged the adoption of low-emission and climate-resilient technologies to spur economic growth and helped the Government set priorities for green growth and the post-2015 development agenda. Mongolia had also formulated a draft law on budget transparency with a view to reducing income inequality and financing sustainable development.

35. Mongolia had established trading relations with some 130 countries. Goods were usually imported and exported via ports in China and the Russian Federation, and foreign nationals from 116 countries were currently working in the country. Mongolia was convinced that fair, transparent, inclusive and predictable trade strengthened markets and created employment opportunities. Landlocked developing countries must therefore formulate coherent trade policies, invest in infrastructure, promote connectivity and strive to produce competitively priced goods that met international standards. Mongolia had recently signed agreements with China and the Russian Federation to strengthen its economic ties with those countries. In June, it had hosted a high level international workshop on the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization and its implications for landlocked developing countries. Mongolia had also launched an international think tank for landlocked developing countries, which it urged all such countries to join at the earliest opportunity. Mongolia trusted that the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries would mobilize political momentum for tackling those countries' unique vulnerabilities.

36. **Mr. Kohona** (Sri Lanka) said that the post-2015 development agenda must build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, reflect the outcomes and agreed principles of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), uphold the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and balance economic growth and environmental protection. Developed countries had failed to fulfil Goal 8 on developing a global partnership for development: that failure should not be repeated in the post-2015 agenda. Indeed, it was critical that developed countries honoured their commitments to developing countries, particularly in the light of the damage they had done to the environment. The outcomes of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals should not be renegotiated. Countries must be allowed to set their own domestic priorities: instead of demanding that countries reallocate their domestic spending, greater focus should be placed on strengthening partnerships between developed and developing countries.

37. Sri Lanka attached particular importance to youth issues, and was convinced that creating a solid and sustainable human resource base for the future was imperative for development. The country was therefore giving priority attention to improving the skills of young people and had hosted the Commonwealth Youth Forum in 2013 and the World Conference on Youth in May.

38. Information and communications technology (ICT) had proven to be a successful catalyst for enhancing and accelerating development in a wide range of countries and should also be an integral part of the post-2015 development agenda. Sri Lanka, like other developing countries, was working to narrow the digital divide, inter alia, by creating an enabling ICT regulatory framework and encouraging private sector investment in that area. Almost 50 per cent of the population was computer literate and ICT was projected to earn the country some $5 billion by 2022.

39. The post-2015 development agenda must also promote the sustainable use of marine resources, which, in many countries, made a substantial contribution to poverty eradication, economic growth and food security. The agenda must acknowledge the needs of middle-income countries, which contained the bulk of the world's workforce and agricultural and industrial potential, and must facilitate the reform of global economic governance institutions in order to strengthen the voice and participation of developing countries in decision-making processes. In that regard, Sri Lanka believed that although South-South cooperation was emerging as a key driver of development, North-South cooperation would remain crucial in the years ahead.

40. Despite being challenged by a ruthless terrorist group, and suffering the effects of the devastating 2004 tsunami, Sri Lanka had achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals and had been ranked ahead of all South Asian countries in the 2013 human development index. Sri Lanka was promoting inclusive and people-centric development in such areas as agriculture, infrastructure development, telecommunications and urban planning, including in the north of the country,

which had suffered disproportionately from violence. In 2013, the economy had grown by almost 8 per cent, per capita income had reached $3280 and absolute poverty had declined dramatically to 6.7 per cent. Sri Lanka would easily achieve its goal of universal primary education by 2015 and its infant mortality rate of 9.02 per 1,000 live births was on par with many affluent countries.

41. Sri Lanka strongly believed that peace and security were crucial for development and reiterated its support for the establishment of a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine within secure and recognized borders, side-by-side and at peace with Israel. It also looked forward to welcoming Palestine as a full member of the United Nations.

42. **Ms. Al-Thani** (Qatar) said that although the responsibility for allocating resources for development must lie with developing countries, donor countries had a responsibility to provide them with assistance, alleviate their debt burdens and facilitate trade. In that regard, Qatar was deeply concerned that the Doha Round remained deadlocked, threatening the establishment of an open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, and called for full implementation of the outcomes of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Rio+20 Conference. Qatar was striving to join the ranks of advanced countries by 2030 and was seeking to promote sustainable development for its citizens and strengthen its national and civil society institutions.

43. Qatar was among the strongest supporters of South-South cooperation initiatives. Recognizing that many developing countries required assistance to address land degradation and desertification, it had facilitated the creation of the Global Dry Land Alliance. It was also deeply concerned at Israel's illegal and inhumane practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan, which had a detrimental effect on, inter alia, the economy and the environment. Israel must honour its obligations under international law and cease those practices immediately. The Palestinian people must be allowed to exercise their sovereignty over all the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and must enjoy their right to sustainable development. Peace, stability and sustainable development were closely interlinked; promoting all three would benefit all peoples of the world.

44. **Mr. Abdo** (Yemen) said that the post-2015 development agenda must afford priority consideration to poverty eradication and negotiations on that agenda must take place in parallel with deliberations on the creation of an effective international partnership for financing sustainable development. Furthermore, the high-level political forum on sustainable development must assume the responsibilities assigned to it by the Rio+20 Conference with regard to monitoring progress towards the achievement of sustainable development goals.

45. Stability, security, good governance and effective measures to combat corruption and promote accountability were essential prerequisites for development. Although Yemen continued to suffer from political instability and violence, its Government was striving to achieve key socioeconomic objectives and, despite its limited financial resources, was working with the international community to restore economic stability and promote development.

46. The majority of the least developed countries would require substantial assistance if they were to achieve their development goals. It was essential that the Istanbul Programme of Action was fully implemented to enable those countries to enhance their productive capacity. The international community must also establish effective mechanisms for technology transfer between States.

47. Climate change was seriously impeding developing countries' efforts to eradicate poverty and even posed an existential threat to certain States. Increasingly, climate change was a factor that undermined stability and exacerbated conflict. The international community must therefore take concerted action to address the challenges posed by climate change in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and in line with international instruments, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, The Copenhagen Green Climate Fund must also be provided with adequate financial resources so that it could play an effective role in assisting developing countries to adapt to and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.

48. **Mr. Oguntuyi** (Nigeria) said that much progress had been made in terms of economic growth and

development but millions still lacked decent housing, health care, schools, clean drinking water and food security, among other human development indices. His delegation welcomed the outcome documents of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the structured dialogues on possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies. The global discourse on the post-2015 development agenda should focus on advancing poverty reduction strategies. Official development assistance could catalyse development and poverty eradication, especially in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Developed countries should honour their commitment to double official development assistance. Political will was needed to ensure sufficient funding to achieve internationally agreed development goals.

49. Developing countries and least developed countries should begin to focus on innovative financing mechanisms, domestic resource mobilization and prohibition of the illegal use of natural resources. The Nigerian President's transformation agenda was intended to boost exports, attract foreign direct investment and diversify the economy.

50. Climate change, land degradation and habitat loss had led to crop failures, livestock deaths and water shortages in regions such as the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. A global commitment was needed to address the issues of growth, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, food security, poverty and climate change. The United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel aimed to create opportunity and development, avert political upheavals and prevent the region from becoming a breeding ground for terrorism and criminal activities. The United Nations should continue to galvanize political will, develop norms and build the capacity of States and other actors to tackle the challenges faced by the Sahel. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was the main forum for addressing climate change, which had caused flooding in Nigeria and adversely affected the lives of millions. The international community should accelerate efforts to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations, and the forthcoming Conference of the Parties to that Convention should address the issue of the Green Climate Fund to tackle the environmental impact of climate change.

51. **Ms. Cousens** (United States of America) said that the international community had an unprecedented opportunity to lift the remaining 1.2 billion people out of extreme poverty by fostering development while promoting environmental sustainability. A strategic and disciplined approach was needed to ensure that the Committee avoided duplication of effort and promoted effectively the post-2015 development agenda and the outcomes of the third International Conference on Financing for Development. Efforts must be made to achieve the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, with stakeholders focusing on key issues, such as poverty, health, education, food security and sanitation. Priority consideration must also be given to well-substantiated drivers of development, including the equality and empowerment of women, inclusive and sustained economic growth, sustainable energy for all, good governance and the creation of institutional environments that encouraged investment, entrepreneurship, and job creation.

52. The increased attention given to sustainability issues, including in connection with marine environments, was to be commended. It was vital to maintain sustainable fish stocks, reduce marine pollution, stem rising ocean acidity and expand protected marine areas. Climate change was another issue of grave concern; it threatened the world's shared vision of inclusive opportunity and development and could accelerate and amplify risk in other vital areas, including food security, biodiversity, disease, and vulnerability to natural disasters. It was therefore crucial that the world's development efforts addressed those key areas.

53. The United States, the world's largest provider of official development assistance, had provided well over $31 billion in ODA in 2013 and was committed to promoting its smart and transparent use, particularly with a view to helping the most vulnerable populations. However, other sources of capital dwarfed ODA flows. Cooperative action was therefore needed to mobilize financing for development from a wide range of domestic, international, public and private sources and promote transparency to ensure that those resources were optimally deployed to achieve enduring development gains.

54. Maintaining an open, rules-based and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system was vital and had immense potential to lift people out of poverty. The United States was firmly committed to helping countries use credit in pursuit of sustainable development. In that regard, sovereign debt distress issues must be resolved without creating unnecessary market uncertainties or negatively impacting the costs and availability of lending to developing countries. The International Monetary Fund and the International Capital Market Association had made considerable progress to that end and the United States continued to view those institutions as uniquely and best placed to resolve concerns related to sovereign debt restructurings.

55. Africa's growth was being propelled by policies and reforms that attracted investment, reduced barriers to trade and promoted regional integration. The work of the Committee should be informed by that continent's leadership. The needs and voice of least developed countries must remain prominent in the international community's debates and a new programme of action for landlocked developing countries, whose economies were growing by approximately 6 per cent annually, should retain the spirit and focus of the successful Almaty Programme of Action. The United States remained strongly committed to promoting the sustainable development of all small island developing States and looked forward to supporting the Samoa Pathway in concrete and practical ways.

56. **Mr. Shihab** (Maldives) said that the recent third International Conference on Small Island Developing States had provided an opportunity to chart the way forward on a comprehensive range of issues confronting small island developing States such as the Maldives. During the current session, the Second Committee would have to formulate an action plan for the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway adopted at that Conference. The Samoa Pathway should be implemented in conjunction with the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for its further implementation. A special category should be created within the United Nations system to address the challenges facing small island developing States. The Maldives was only the third country to graduate from least developed country status but the structural challenges of being an archipelago of low-lying remote islands remained. Economies of scale were impossible and international and domestic transport costs were high.

57. The report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals would form the basis for the post-2015 development agenda, which should take into account the failures of the Millennium Development Goals and, in particular, include an updated and more action-oriented version of Goal 8 on a global partnership for development. Only in an international framework where small island developing States were treated as equal partners could they achieve the ultimate goal of resilience.

58. For the Maldives, sustainable development was all about oceans, on which its people were dependent for food, transport and more. Climate change threatened the environment, the economy and the very existence of the Maldives, where weather patterns were changing and extended dry periods placed stress on the availability of fresh water and the ability of the Government to supply water to the outer islands. For an archipelago of 1,190 islands, 80 per cent of which were barely 1 metre above mean sea level, rising sea levels were a grave threat. According to recent estimates, the Maldives would need to invest $1.5 billion in climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in the coming decade. It therefore hoped that public support and renewed attention by world leaders would lead to a legally binding instrument in 2015. The new climate goals and contributions to the Green Climate Fund were welcome.

59. The recent attack on Gaza was a reminder of the plight of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Until a two-State solution based on 1967 borders could be achieved, the occupying Power should abide by international law and United Nations resolutions.

60. **Ms. Ibrahimova** (Azerbaijan) said that North-South and South-South cooperation offered an opportunity for developing countries to pursue sustained economic growth as part of a partnership amongst equals based on solidarity. The United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda brought together over 160 United Nations agencies and international organizations and would define the road map for countries to address global dilemmas on conflict and fragility, education, environmental sustainability, governance, growth and employment, health, hunger and other salient issues. Sustainable development was

accompanied by targets and measurable outcomes tailored to each country's realities and priorities. Her Government agreed that no goal should be considered achieved unless the target had been met by the lowest quintile of the population. Azerbaijan was confident that the proposed goals for the new agenda would provide a solid foundation on which countries could act, and was committed to the full implementation of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, as well as all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields. The means of implementation identified in those documents were indispensable for converting sustainable development commitments into tangible outcomes.

61. With a view to providing affordable energy to all and combating climate change, Azerbaijan had opened a wind power plant and a solar panel factory. Her Government planned to increase the share of renewable energy sources to 9.7 per cent of total energy consumption, three times the current rate, by 2020. That trend might not be typical for oil- and gas-rich countries but it was their responsibility nonetheless to contribute to environmental protection by investing in renewable energy in order to reduce consumption of traditional forms of energy. Azerbaijan was a reliable supplier of energy in the global market and had recently launched the southern gas corridor, a $15 billion project involving the construction of pipeline systems enabling Europe to import gas from a new resource base in Azerbaijan.

62. Her Government was committed to the Almaty Programme of Action addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries within a new global framework for transit transport cooperation. A major achievement of Azerbaijan in the transport sector was the launch of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway project in cooperation with Georgia and Turkey. Azerbaijan was also committed to providing humanitarian assistance and was already known as an emerging donor partner.

63. **Mr. Kogda** (Burkina Faso) said that nearly 1.5 billion people still lived on less than a dollar a day. For them, food security was a daily preoccupation and access to drinking water and health care were a luxury. The international community should mobilize resources and strengthen solidarity by reforming the international economic and financial system, taking into account the needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Access to economic and financial resources should also be extended to the most impoverished for their own advancement, including, in particular, the promotion of women's empowerment. International efforts supported by official development assistance, financing for development and public-private partnerships should be mutually beneficial and based on shared responsibilities. Greater South-South and triangular cooperation through trade and the sharing of experience and know-how would tap the potential of developing countries.

64. To address the challenge of climate change, the resilience of grass-roots communities needed to be boosted by enabling them to anticipate and manage risks. International commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transfer innovative technologies were key to best practices in the area of clean energy and efforts to limit global warming.

65. **Mr. Zamora Rivas** (El Salvador) said that the global financial and economic crisis had made it impossible for many countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Poverty, unemployment and underemployment had increased, while investment in developing countries had decreased. The report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals should not be renegotiated but rather it should form the basis for mainstreaming sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda. The new goals should also address the unfinished business of the MDGs.

66. Financing for development was key to the implementation of the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda. A global partnership for development based on the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration and the Rio+20 outcome document should be integrated into the framework of the third International Conference on Financing for Development. Official development assistance was vital to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, but the global economic and financial crisis had led to its reduction and provoked resistance to any increase in assistance to middle-income countries, a category that needed to be redefined using criteria other than the sole indicator of per capita income. Other factors, such as inequality, poverty, investment, savings, productivity, education,

gender, and the environment, also needed to be taken into account.

67. El Salvador reaffirmed its support for reforming global economic governance structures to ensure better coordination of global financial and monetary issues through a strengthened relationship between the United Nations, the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization. Increased participation by developing countries would reinforce the legitimacy of the Bretton Woods institutions. The recently adopted General Assembly resolution entitled "Towards the establishment of a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes" reflected awareness in the world of finance and among debtor countries and financial institutions that the problem stemmed from the lack of international regulations applicable to such processes.

68. The economic and financial crisis had also impacted remittances from Salvadorans living in developed countries. Her delegation therefore supported inclusive policies that protected the human rights of migrants and members of their families. Migration issues should be included in the post-2015 development agenda, from a long-term perspective that emphasized joint responsibility and took into account all the factors influencing migration patterns.

69. Developing countries, including El Salvador, were not responsible for climate change but were the first to suffer its consequences. There was little or nothing they could do to cut harmful emissions and they were reduced to taking adaptation and mitigation measures with a view to reducing loss of life and the cost of natural disasters. The international community had an obligation to address the causes of the problem as well as vulnerability and adaptation issues.

70. **Mr. Bishnoi** (India) said that the Committee had a key role to play in facilitating discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, financing for development mechanisms and technology transfer. Although India did not completely agree with all conclusions reached by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, particularly its outcome on technology, it commended the Group for emphasizing that poverty eradication must lie at the heart of development initiatives, and for reaffirming the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The conclusions provided a sound basis for integrating the sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, emphasized the need to promote robust and sustained economic growth, industrial and infrastructure development and full employment, placed a balanced emphasis on the three dimensions of sustainable development, and set forth an ambitious plan of action for rationalizing consumption patterns and preserving the environment.

71. To successfully implement the world's ambitious development agenda, it was crucial that the international community's discussions also focused on ways to enhance implementation mechanisms, South-South cooperation, and technology transfer so that developing countries had the tools and resources with which to achieve their development objectives.

72. The Committee must continue to give priority consideration to the interests of African least developed and landlocked developing countries and to small island developing States, inter alia, by supporting implementation of the Samoa Pathway. Developing countries must be encouraged to take decisive action to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. In that regard, India, which was successfully promoting the use of clean energy technologies, emphasized that developing countries' climate mitigation and adaption strategies must be supported by an equitable outcome to negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Unfulfilled promises of financial and technological support must be honoured and developed countries must demonstrably take the lead in cutting emissions in accordance with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

73. **Mr. González de Linares Palou** (Spain) said that the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals was a solid basis for working towards the summit of September 2015. Spain's fulfilment of its commitments to the MDGs and the future sustainable development goals had been demonstrated in word and deed, even during difficult and changing times. In 2007, Spain had set up, with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme, a $900 million fund, the largest fund ever devoted by a single country to the MDGs. Spain was one of the countries that had been hardest hit by the crisis; yet it had never used, and would never use, a crisis as an excuse to renege on its commitment to the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in other countries.

74. His Government had recently set up the first fund geared to ensuring a smooth transition from the MDGs to the sustainable development goals, and that fund was already fully operational. Part of the fund was set aside for small island developing States. Indeed, Spain had hosted a thematic dialogue on climate change at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States held in Samoa. One of the first actions on the world stage of the new King of Spain had been participation in the recent Climate Summit 2014, in which he had noted that Spain had been the first country to contribute to the adaptation fund and was transitioning to a renewable energy-based economic model. It was also the first country where wind power had been the leading source of electric power generation for an entire year.

75. Much remained to be done to solve the planet's problems and meet the most pressing needs of those living under difficult circumstances. It would not be sufficient to sit in a room negotiating and agreeing on declarations or draft resolutions while, in the outside world, thousands were suffering from the Ebola epidemic or were in need of basic health care, hundreds of girls had been abducted because they had gone to school, women were suffering from discrimination in public and in the workplace, persons with disabilities faced difficulties that prevented them from leading a normal life, and many people lacked access to food, water, health care, sanitation or education.

76. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals was fast approaching. The international community must endeavour to achieve as much progress as possible in the limited time that remained. Member States must also strive to create links between the Goals and the post-2015 development agenda to facilitate a smooth transition between the two processes. If the post-2015 development agenda failed to eradicate poverty, the world's efforts would be judged a failure by coming generations. The international community must also ensure adequate financing for development, the significance of which could not be overstated. Like most States, Bangladesh strongly believed that migration must be an integral part of the development discourse and it stood ready to work with the international community to reduce the costs of migration and ensure that migration policies were pro-poor.

77. Nearly three quarters of people in least developed countries still lived in poverty and those countries' share of global trade had remained stagnant at around 1 per cent for over four decades. Developed countries had pledged to provide 0.15-0.20 per cent of their gross national income as ODA to least developed countries, but many had failed to honour their commitments. The international community must therefore redouble its efforts to promote development and eradicate extreme poverty in least developed countries.

78. **Mr. Montilla** (Dominican Republic) said that his delegation attached particular importance to accelerating achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and incorporating them into the post-2015 process. The revitalization of agriculture and food production capacity would be crucial to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, especially in developing countries. Of the 155 municipalities in the Dominican Republic, 133 were dependent on agriculture and cattle ranching and his Government was therefore consolidating the agribusiness sector as one of the pillars of economic growth by creating rural jobs, guaranteeing access to loans, modernizing rural infrastructure and reforesting catchment areas. One innovation was the policy of "surprise visits" to rural communities by the President of the Republic, enabling him to engage in direct dialogue with the people and determine the needs and priorities of each community. When cooperatives proposed viable projects, they received loans and technical assistance to build infrastructure and natural disaster defences.

79. The Dominican Republic had succeeded in reducing the poverty rate by six percentage points and lifted over half a million people out of poverty, largely because of Government efforts and rapid economic modernization in the previous decade. Financing for development was key to stepping up efforts to reduce poverty and strengthen multilateralism, international trade and cooperation for development. In the run-up to the third International Conference on Financing for Development, a global partnership should be forged on the basis of the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, and the Rio+20 outcome document.

80. Climate change was a threat to all, but especially to small island developing States. Negotiations on a new climate agreement to be adopted at the Paris Climate Change Conference in 2015 should take place in parallel to the post-2015 disaster risk reduction

process. The Dominican Republic acknowledged the need for transparency in the use of public funds, better tax collection and public services.

81. **Mr. Bame** (Ethiopia) said that his delegation welcomed the recent decision contained in General Assembly resolution 68/309 to make the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals the basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda. There was broad consensus that the eradication of poverty, which remained the greatest global challenge, would not be possible unless the international community took action to enhance food security and access to energy, water and sanitation, improved countries' infrastructure, and promoted quality education, job creation, health, inclusive growth and sustainable agricultural and industrial development. Action must also be taken to reverse environmental degradation, protect the ecosystems that provided the resources and services on which the world depended, empower women and girls, and combat rising income inequality. There was also agreement that the post-2015 development agenda, while striving to be universal in scope, must also take into account national policies, priorities, capacities and levels of development, and build on the lessons learned in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

82. Africa, which did virtually nothing to cause climate change, continued to be the continent most affected by that phenomenon. A major breakthrough at the Lima Climate Change Conference was sorely needed. Developed countries were also urged to fulfil their commitment of mobilizing $100 billion per year for the Green Climate Fund by 2020.

83. In a recent report for the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General had noted with concern that ODA to Africa had decreased by 5.6 percent in 2013 (E/2014/77, para. 6). Urgent action must be taken to reverse that trend. A global commitment on financing for development would prove crucial in the years ahead. In that regard, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing had made recommendations to stimulate discussions on how to finance the post-2015 development agenda. To that end, Ethiopia would host the third International Conference on Financing for Development in 2015, at which it hoped a sustainable agreement on financing the post-2015 agenda would be reached. A robust mechanism for reviewing implementation would also be needed if the world was to achieve the sustainable development goals.

84. Ethiopia was implementing its Climate-Resilient Green Economy Strategy with a view to harnessing its renewable resources and achieving sustainable development. It had increased its energy-generating capacity significantly and over 50 per cent of its population now enjoyed access to the electricity grid. Major infrastructure projects had been completed or were under way and efforts were being made to improve the business environment. In the previous three years alone, the country had received over $3.6 billion in foreign direct investment, which had significantly boosted growth and employment. Ethiopia had achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals, including reducing the number of people living in poverty by half and meeting the target on reducing child mortality three years ahead of the 2015 deadline.

85. Given the unique challenges they faced, the needs and concerns of landlocked developing countries would continue to merit particular attention. In that regard, Ethiopia had high hopes that the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries would help the international community formulate priorities for a new, more comprehensive, action-oriented framework for those countries for the coming decade.

86. **Mr. Nduhuura** (Uganda) said that his delegation, too, acknowledged the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals as the basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda (General Assembly resolution 68/309). With the 2015 target date for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals fast approaching, it was clear that significant progress had been made. Uganda, for example, had attained the target of halving the population living on less than $1.25 per day in 2010, and fewer than one in four Ugandans still lived below the national poverty line. The country had established universal primary and secondary education, and over 70 per cent of the population enjoyed access to safe water and sanitation. Access to basic social services continued to improve, and life expectancy had increased by more than 12 years. However, many developing countries, especially in Africa, were unlikely to meet all the Goals by the 2015 deadline, principally because insufficient progress had been made towards

establishing a global partnership for development that could mobilize necessary resources.

87. Further progress was clearly needed and, following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/309, long-awaited intergovernmental negotiations could begin on a transformative post-2015 development agenda. The eradication of poverty in all its forms must be the overarching priority of that agenda. To that end, strengthening partnerships among Governments, the private sector, civil society, foundations, international organizations, and international financial institutions would be of the utmost importance. Governments must, however, take the lead in combating poverty and must integrate the sustainable development goals in their national development plans. That would enable development partners to identify the critical areas they could address. Effective global partnerships, predicable and reliable sources of funding, and robust and effective mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and evaluation would prove crucial to the success of the post-2015 development agenda. To ensure that the least developed countries achieved sustainable development, the new agenda must also prioritize infrastructure development, unrestricted regional and international market access for the products of least developed countries, productive technology transfer, the maintenance of peace and security, and measures to address the challenges posed by climate change.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.